

A NEW SPECIES OF PELORIDIIDAE (HEMIPTERA,
HOMOPTERA) FROM VICTORIA.

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The family Peloridiidae, which comprises the whole of the homopterous series Coleorrhyncha, consists of three genera, *Peloridium* Breddin, *Xenophyes* Bergroth and *Hemiodoeus* China. The species in these genera are of considerable interest on account of their distribution, rarity and relationship with the rest of the Hemiptera.

Until 1932, only one species of each genus was known, *Peloridium hammoniorum* Bredd. from Patagonia, *Xenophyes caseus* Berg. from New Zealand and *Hemiodoeus leai* China from Tasmania. In addition a nymph had been recorded by Bergroth from Lord Howe Island. Their rarity may be judged by the fact, that of the three genera and species, only five adult specimens and two nymphs were known prior to 1932. Nothing was known of their biology beyond the fact that they were forest insects.

In May, 1932, Hacker (1932) described a new species of *Hemiodoeus* from Queensland, which he named *Hemiodoeus vcitchi*. At the same time he recorded the interesting fact that the insects collected by him (three females) were caught in a beating net, either from the Antarctic Beech, *Fagus moorei*, or from trees in their immediate vicinity.

China (1932), in a discussion of the significance of the above record, suggested that the family is evidently arboreal in habits, and that it is associated with Antarctic beeches of the genus *Nothofagus* Blume. In the same paper he mentioned that the habitat of the Tasmanian, *H. leai* was unknown, but that as a species of *Nothofagus* (*N. cunninghami*) occurs in Tasmania, it was possible that this species was associated with the beech. He added that if this assumed association was correct, the insect should eventually be discovered in Victoria, where *N. cunninghami* also occurs.

During the past two years intensive searching on *N. cunninghami* for *H. leai* in Tasmania has failed to reveal a single specimen. However, recently four specimens, two males and two females of this species were discovered in the collection of the Tasmanian Museum at Hobart. These had been found by the late A. M. Lea at Waratah, in the North-West of the

island. It is significant that beech trees are abundant at Waratah. Whilst recently examining the extensive collection of Mr. F. E. Wilson of Melbourne, another specimen of *H. leai* was discovered, taken in National Park, Tasmania, and in addition an undescribed species belonging to the same genus, from "Beech Forest, Victoria." This species, which is described below, is dedicated to Mr. Wilson.

The figure of *H. wilsoni* renders unnecessary a very detailed description, since both the other species in this genus have been figured previously (China, 1932). The paper referred to contains a complete bibliography of the literature concerned with the Peloridiidae.

Hemiodoccus wilsoni, sp. nov.

Length, 3 mm. General coloration, pale greyish-brown. Head, width across eyes, 1.2 mm.; eyes reddish-brown. Head dorsally flat, but for the eyes, which are rounded and protuberant.

Pronotum, narrowly but distinctly separated from the head. Paranota with three areolae and with the anterior corners forming right-angles; anteriorly narrower than posteriorly and with the hind borders rounded.

Tegmen, costal margin sinuate; veins in relief, bordered with shallow punctures. Breadth across the folded tegmina anteriorly greater than the breadth of the pronotum.

Type.—Sub-brachypterous ♀ from Beech Forest, Victoria, in the National Museum (presented by F. E. Wilson).

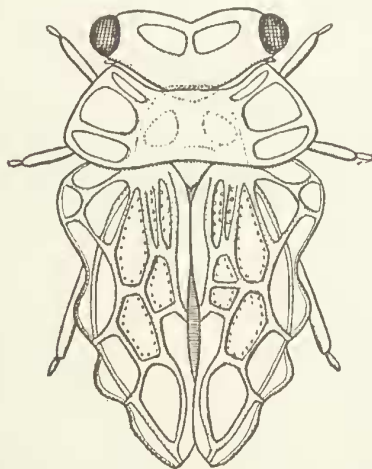


FIG. 1. *HEMIDODOECUS WILSONI*; ♀.

This species, differs from both the other species in this genus in lacking short marginal bristles. It resembles *H. leai* in the shape and number of areolae of the paranota, and in

having only three cells in the anterior costal region of the tegmen, but differs from it in having only a few large costal cells posteriorly and in the sinuate costal margin of the tegmen. It resembles *H. veitchi* in the shape of the head and in the shape of the anterior, flattened costal expansions of the tegmina, but differs in having fewer paranotal areolae, and fewer cells in the anterior costal expansions of the tegmina. China (1932) refers to the extraordinary variability of the venation and areolae in this group; in the figure of the type of *H. wilsoni*, it will be noticed that the venation is not identical in the two tegmina.

REFERENCES.

- China, W. E., 1932, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., Ser. 10, x, p. 492.
Hacker, H., 1932, Queensland Agric. Journ., 38, p. 262.